

**ANTIBACTERIAL AND CELL INTERACTION OF TiO<sub>2</sub>-BASED  
NANOPARTICLES AND NANOTUBES**

**by**

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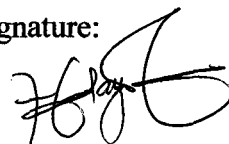
## DECLARATION

I hereby declare that I have conducted, completed the research work and written the dissertation entitles “Antibacterial and Cell Interaction Studies of TiO<sub>2</sub>-based Nanoparticles and Nanotubes” I also declare that it has not been previously submitted for the award of any degree or diploma or other similar title of this for any other examining body or university. This research data are confidential and therefore need to obtain supervisor approval to view or refer.

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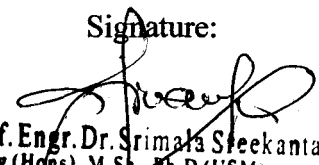


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## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

TiO <sub>2</sub>	Titanium dioxide
TTIP	Titanium (IV) Isopropoxide
XRD	X-Ray Diffraction
SEM	Scanning Electron Microscopy
TEM	Transmission Electron Microscope
PL	Photoluminescence Spectroscopy
XPS	X-ray photoelectron Spectroscopy
MHA	Mueller Hinton Agar
MHB	Mueller Hinton Broth
MTS	Cell Titer 96 Aqueous Non- Radioactive Cell Proliferation Assay
DMEM	Ham's F12 Medium Dulbecco's Modified Eagle Medium
<i>E. coli</i>	Escherichia coli
<i>S. aureus</i>	Staphylococcus <i>S. aureus</i>
<i>B. subtilis</i>	Bacillus subtilis
ROS	Reactive oxygen species
UV	Ultraviolet



## LIST OF SYMBOLS

Ag	Silver
Zr	Zirconium
HNO <sub>3</sub>	Nitric acid
AgNO <sub>3</sub>	Silver Nitrate
$h\nu$	Photon energy
$e^-$	Electron
$h$	Hole
HO <sub>2</sub> •	Hydrogen superoxide radical
H <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub>	Hydrogen peroxide
ZrO <sub>2</sub>	Zirconium oxide
O <sub>2</sub> • <sup>-</sup>	Superoxide radical anion
OH•	hydroxyl radical

# KAJIAN ANTIBAKTERIA DAN TINDAK BALAS SEL TERHADAP NANOPARTIKEL DAN TIUB NANO TiO<sub>2</sub>

## ABSTRAK

Pada masa ini, sebahagian daripada masalah terbesar yang menjejaskan keseluruhan dunia adalah pencemaran udara dan juga mikrob bahan cemar. Setiap kali kita bernafas, kita mempertaruhkan kehidupan kita dengan menyedut bahan kimia berbahaya dan bahan cemar biologi yang telah merebak dengan cara mereka ke udara. Oleh itu dalam kerja-kerja ini, penggunaan bahan TiO<sub>2</sub> fotomangkin untuk mengatasi pencemar udara dalaman telah dikaji. Larutan-nano TiO<sub>2</sub> telah disediakan menggunakan kaedah sol-gel diikuti dengan proses peptisasi pada 85 °C selama 8 jam. Larutan-nano TiO<sub>2</sub> dengan saiz zarah 3-6 nm dengan struktur *anatase* telah dihasilkan. TiO<sub>2</sub> sahaja didapati tidak begitu berkesan dalam menunjukkan ciri-ciri antimikrobial. Oleh itu, kesan perak (Ag), zirkonium (Zr) dan perak- zirkonium (Ag-Zr) pada ciri-ciri antibakteria TiO<sub>2</sub> di bawah cahaya pendarfluor telah dikaji. Kiraan koloni selepas dirawat dengan 0.1 Ag- TiO<sub>2</sub> telah menunjukkan keupayaan bahan ini untuk membunuh bakteria lebih daripada 99.99 %. Kuasa pembunuhan merosot dalam urutan yang berikut: Ag-TiO<sub>2</sub> > Ag-Zr-TiO<sub>2</sub> > Zr-TiO<sub>2</sub> > TiO<sub>2</sub>. Pemerhatian TEM dan SEM menunjukkan bahawa bakteria Gram-positif telah mudah reput berbanding dengan bakteria Gram-negatif. Nanopartikel Ag- TiO<sub>2</sub> menunjukkan kesan tidak toksik terhadap CCD-18Co bahagian sel fibroblast. Selain daripada TiO<sub>2</sub> dalam bentuk nanopartikel, kerja kajian telah dilanjutkan kepada struktur nanotubular. Tatasusunan TiO<sub>2</sub> tiub nano telah dibentuk oleh kaedah penganodan dengan voltan berbeza-beza dari 20, 40 dan 60 V. Diameter lebih besar dan tiub nano lebih panjang kemudiannya diresap ke dalam larutan perak untuk membentuk tiub nano Ag- TiO<sub>2</sub>. Ujian aktiviti antimikrob terhadap *E. coli* menunjukkan bahawa permukaan tiub nano Ag-TiO<sub>2</sub> berkurangan 95.7 %

bakteria lekatan berbanding  $\text{TiO}_2$  tulen. Dalam kajian vitro menunjukkan bahawa perak yang telah dimuatkan ke dalam tiub nano  $\text{TiO}_2$  tidak toksik untuk sel hFOB 1.19.

## ANTIBACTERIAL AND CELL INTERACTION OF TiO<sub>2</sub> BASED NANOPARTICLES AND NANOTUBES

### ABSTRACT

Currently, some of the major problems affecting the world are air pollution as well as microbial contamination. Every time we breathe, we are risking our lives by inhaling dangerous chemicals and biological contaminants that have found their way into the air. In this work, the use of TiO<sub>2</sub> photocatalyst materials to overcome indoor air pollutants is investigated. The TiO<sub>2</sub> nanosolution was prepared by using sol-gel method followed by the peptization process at 85 °C for 8 hours. TiO<sub>2</sub> nanosolution with a particle size of 3-6 nm with an anatase structure was produced. TiO<sub>2</sub> alone was found to be not very effective in demonstrating the antimicrobial property. Therefore, the effect of silver (Ag), zirconium (Zr) and silver-zirconium (Ag-Zr) on antibacterial properties of TiO<sub>2</sub> under fluorescent light was studied. The colony count of the agar with 0.1 Ag-TiO<sub>2</sub> has indicated the capability of this material to kill bacteria by more than 99.99%. The killing power deteriorated in the following order: Ag-TiO<sub>2</sub> > Ag-Zr-TiO<sub>2</sub> > Zr-TiO<sub>2</sub> > TiO<sub>2</sub>. TEM and SEM observations showed that the Gram-positive bacteria were easily decomposed compared to the Gram-negative bacteria. Ag-TiO<sub>2</sub> nanoparticles showed a non-toxic effect towards CCD-18Co fibroblast cell lines. Apart from TiO<sub>2</sub> in nanoparticle form, the work was extended to the nanotubular structure. TiO<sub>2</sub> nanotube arrays were formed by the anodization method with a voltage which varied from 20, 40 and 60 V. Larger diameters and longer nanotubes were then impregnated in the silver solution to form Ag-TiO<sub>2</sub> nanotubes. An antimicrobial activity test against *E. coli* demonstrated that the Ag-TiO<sub>2</sub> nanotube surface significantly reduced 95.7 % of bacteria adhesion as compared to pure TiO<sub>2</sub>. The *in vitro* study showed that the silver loaded TiO<sub>2</sub> nanotubes were not cytotoxic for hFOB 1.19 cells.

# CHAPTER 1

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Introduction

This research was conducted to evaluate the antibacterial property and the toxicity of TiO<sub>2</sub> nanoparticles and nanotubes. TiO<sub>2</sub> nanoparticles were synthesized using the sol gel process and TiO<sub>2</sub> nanotubes were produced using the anodization method. The synthesis of TiO<sub>2</sub>, Zr incorporated TiO<sub>2</sub> (Zr-TiO<sub>2</sub>), Ag incorporated TiO<sub>2</sub> (Ag-TiO<sub>2</sub>) and silver-zirconium (Ag-Zr) incorporated TiO<sub>2</sub> (Ag-Zr-TiO<sub>2</sub>) nanoparticles were produced using the sol gel method. This process was performed to produce a milky white colloid TiO<sub>2</sub> followed by peptization to disperse the white colloid into nano sized particles (3-6 nm). The optimization process was carried out by studying the performance efficiency of the antibacterial activity. From these synthesized nanoparticles, Ag-TiO<sub>2</sub> with an optimum formulation was selected to be loaded in nanotubular form using the wet impregnation process. The antimicrobial activity and the toxicity of TiO<sub>2</sub> nanoparticles and nanotubes were investigated. The presence of cation loading (Ag or Zr) in TiO<sub>2</sub> is believed to induce a photocatalytic property that can yield high reactivity under fluorescent light that leads to pathogenic bacteria deactivation.

### 1.2 Biological contaminants

Microorganisms are believed to have existed billions of years ago and they give a large contribution to the world ecosystem. Microorganisms such as photosynthetic bacteria consume carbon dioxide and produce oxygen, sustaining the oxygen composition in the atmosphere. However, there are some groups of microorganisms such as *E. coli*, *S. aureus*, *B. cereus*, *A. niger* and other pathogenic bacteria that are

infectious and can cause diseases. According to the fact sheet updated by the World Health Organization (WHO) in 2011, 2 million out of 59 million premature deaths each year are attributed to polluted indoor air. In tropical countries like Singapore and Malaysia, warm and humid climate aggravates the growth of indoor biological contaminants. The use of air conditioners, humidifiers and unvented heaters increases moisture over interior surfaces (EPA, 1995). Hence, this encourages the growth of biological pollutions such as allergens and may cause asthma, cough, mumps, rubella, pneumonia and influenza (Jacoby *et al.*, 1998). Moreover, more than 60 bacteria, viruses and fungi are documented as infectious airborne pathogens (Jacoby *et al.*, 1998). Hence, the control of indoor air quality through economical and effective inactivation of microorganisms is required.

In addition, bacterial infection is also known as a common problem after orthopedic implant surgery. In USA, 1%–1.5% of all total hip and knee arthroplasties (THAs and TKAs, respectively) implantations suffer from the risk of infection (Stanton, 2010). Although the chance of infection is rare in these procedures, the problem is significant as periprosthetic implant infections cost about US\$70,000 per episode and is the most common cause of revision surgery in all TKAs (25%), the third commonest cause in all THAs (15%), and the commonest reason for the removal of all TKAs (79%) and THAs (74%) (Stanton, 2010, Bozic *et al.*, 2010, Bozic *et al.*, 2009). If not prevented, bacterial infection can result in serious and life threatening conditions such as osteomyelitis and implant loosening (Popat *et al.*, 2007a). Acute infection or chronic osteomyelitis develops in as many as 5%–33% of implant surgeries despite the use of strict antiseptic operative procedures (Hendriks *et al.*, 2004).

### 1.3 Problem statement

Several methods have been used to kill bacteria. Many control methods are used to reduce indoor bio-pollutants through purging (using outside air), filtering and isolating microbiological species using pressurization control and ultraviolet germicidal irradiation (UVGI). The recommendation of introducing outside air to purge the contaminant indoors only dilute the concentration of microorganisms without destroying the biological species (Ashrae, 1997). Pressurization control is commonly used in biohazard facilities and isolation rooms to prevent the migration of microbes from one area to another but inherent costs and operational instability at normal air flow rates limit its applications for common indoor environments (e.g., residential buildings) (Kowalski and Bahnfleth, 1998).

Controlled antibiotics released from biomaterials can prevent microbial infection but there is concern about microbial resistance to antibiotics including *S. aureus* and *S. epidermis* (Puckett *et al.*, 2010). The prevention of bacteria adhesion without antibiotics is one of the best ways to reduce orthopedic implant application. Ultraviolet (UV) radiation has received great attention to reduce indoor bio-pollutants and prevent biomaterial-related infections. UV disinfection can inactivate protozoa, bacteria and viruses (Hijnen *et al.*, 2006). UV may impair bacterial adhesion in implant application but will not compromise the good response of human bone-forming cells to implant (Gallardo-Moreno *et al.*, 2009). Although UV radiation shows the highest efficiency in killing microorganisms, its adverse effects to the human body is critical and inevitable (Zhang and Sun, 2004). The short-term over exposure of human skin and eyes to 254 nm UV-C can lead to erythema or reddening of the skin, photokeratitis/inflammation of

the cornea and conjunctivitis/inflammation of the conjunctiva (Green and Scarpino, 2002).

TiO<sub>2</sub> photocatalysis is capable of inactivating microbial toxins (e.g. lipopolysaccharide endotoxin, brevetoxins, microcystins) but only under UV irradiation (Foster *et al.*, 2011) as shown in Table 1.1. The bactericidal efficiency of photocatalysis using UV and TiO<sub>2</sub> has also been tested in the treatment of pathogenic microbes including bacteria, fungi, viruses and cancer cells (Sunada *et al.*, 2003, Rincón and Pulgarin, 2003, Foster *et al.*, 2011, Rahim *et al.*, 2012) but the use of ultraviolet for effective photocatalysis gives adverse effects to the human body (Prasad *et al.*, 2009, Wu *et al.*, 2010). Using fluorescent light can be an attractive and alternative light source since indoor environments, especially hospitals and office premises, are commonly illuminated using fluorescent light. TiO<sub>2</sub> coupled with fluorescent light has a vast potential for indoor air disinfection due to low power consumption, less frequent maintenance requirement and compatibility with the heating ventilation system (Yang and Wang, 2008).

TiO<sub>2</sub> is incorporated with other metals so that it can detoxify microorganisms under fluorescent light effectively. Ag is selected because silver in ionic or nanoparticle form has a high antimicrobial activity thus, it can enhance the charge separation efficiently. Its Fermi level is lower than TiO<sub>2</sub> which results in imposing empty states in between the bandgap. More importantly, Ag is an antibacterial agent by nature (Baker *et al.*, 2005). Most studies reported on the toxicity of TiO<sub>2</sub> nanoparticles but not many study focussed on the toxicity of Ag-TiO<sub>2</sub>.



Zr has the potential to deactivate bacteria because many reports have shown that Zr-doped titanium solid solutions can enhance photocatalytic activity in visible light. Zr is selected because it has a slightly greater ionic size than  $\text{Ti}^{4+}$ . Zr will substitute  $\text{Ti}^{4+}$  inducing lattice strain which later forces the oxygen to escape from its lattice giving an empty state to prolong the recombination lifetime. Zr- $\text{TiO}_2$  has the potential to kill bacteria but only under sunlight (Green and Scarpino, 2002). The antibacterial strength of Zr incorporated  $\text{TiO}_2$  nanoparticles under fluorescent light has not been widely studied. Therefore, the effect of increasing the amount of Zr on antibacterial strength will be studied. For Ag-Zr- $\text{TiO}_2$  composition, only one work has been reported (Moafi *et al.*, 2011). However, it only focused on the performance of photocatalytic activity, not the antibacterial properties. Interestingly, there no work on the toxicity of Ag-Zr- $\text{TiO}_2$  has been reported. Table 1.1 shows the reports on the photocatalytic, antibacterial and toxicity studies of each modified  $\text{TiO}_2$ .

$\text{TiO}_2$  nanoparticles are still far from becoming a potential candidate for bactericidal application due to the effects of toxicity problems. Some reports have found that  $\text{TiO}_2$  nanoparticles are toxic to human health (Oberdörster *et al.*, 1994, Oberdörster, 2000, Zhao *et al.*, 2009, Zhao and Castranova, 2011). However, there are claim that  $\text{TiO}_2$  is not toxic (Karlsson *et al.*, 2008, Ramires *et al.*, 2001). Dechsakulthorn *et al.* (2007) have shown the toxic effects of  $\text{TiO}_2$  NP to human skin fibroblasts during 24 hours exposure to NPs of less than 150 nm diameter. Similarly Peter *et al.* (2004), Kang *et al.* (2011) and Yin *et al.* (2012) have shown the toxic effects for nanoparticles that are less than 100 nm in size. Gurr *et al.* (2005) reported that  $\text{TiO}_2$  nanoparticles that are less than 200 nm were not claimed as toxic compared to nanoparticles which had diameters

of 10-20 nm. Research has shown that smaller nanoparticles may exert a higher degree of toxicity (Hund-Rink and Simon 2006; Franklin et al., 2007).

Table 1.1 Summary on the properties of each modified TiO<sub>2</sub>.

Studies	TiO <sub>2</sub>	Ag-TiO <sub>2</sub>	Zr-TiO <sub>2</sub>	Ag-Zr-TiO <sub>2</sub>
Photocatalyst	Good under UV light (Prasad <i>et al.</i> , 2009, Kim <i>et al.</i> , 2008b, Markowska-Szczupak <i>et al.</i> , 2011)	Improve photocatalytic activity under visible light. (Hou <i>et al.</i> , 2009, Grandcolas <i>et al.</i> , 2011, Ashkarran <i>et al.</i> , 2011)	Good photocatalyst under visible light (Stengl <i>et al.</i> , 2008, Ragai and Yacoub, 2013, Moafi <i>et al.</i> , 2011)	Very good photocatalyst under visible light (Moafi <i>et al.</i> , 2011)
Antibacterial	Good under UV light (Amin <i>et al.</i> , 2009, Swetha <i>et al.</i> , 2010b, Foster <i>et al.</i> , 2011)	Excellent antibacterial strength under visible light (Grandcolas <i>et al.</i> , 2011, Ashkarran <i>et al.</i> , 2011, Gupta <i>et al.</i> , 2013)	Good bacterial strength under sunlight (Green and Scarpino, 2002)  No reported under visible light.	Not reported
Toxicity	Toxic if size less 100 nm (Dechsakulthorn <i>et al.</i> , 2007, Kang <i>et al.</i> , 2011, Yin <i>et al.</i> , 2012)	Can kill HeLa cells (cancer cell) by 100%  (Jacoby <i>et al.</i> , 1998)	Not reported	Not reported

The objective of this research is to improve the antibacterial properties of TiO<sub>2</sub> nanoparticles and nanotubes that can kill bacteria at a faster killing rate than what has been reported in previous works. In addition, the utilization of TiO<sub>2</sub> nanoparticles with the size of less than 6 nm must be proven to be harmless to human bodies. Therefore, this study is also coupled with a toxicity test to investigate TiO<sub>2</sub> nanoparticles and nanotubes that do not have undesirable side effects to human health.

## 1.4 Objectives

- i. To synthesize  $\text{TiO}_2$ ,  $\text{Zr-TiO}_2$ ,  $\text{Ag-TiO}_2$ , and  $\text{Ag-Zr-TiO}_2$  nanoparticles using the sol gel method.
- ii. To study the formation of  $\text{TiO}_2$  nanotubes via anodization followed by the wet impregnation method to form doped-nanotubes from the optimized formulation in objective (i).
- iii. To investigate the antibacterial activity and toxicity of cation- $\text{TiO}_2$  nanoparticles and nanotubes under fluorescent light.

## 1.5 Scope of work

This project is divided into two categories in order to achieve the objectives. The first is the  $\text{TiO}_2$  nanoparticles and the second part is the  $\text{TiO}_2$  nanotubes.  $\text{TiO}_2$  nanoparticles were synthesized using the sol gel approach based on a preliminary study (Ibrahim and Sreekantan, 2010).  $\text{Zr-TiO}_2$ ,  $\text{Ag-TiO}_2$ , and  $\text{Ag-Zr-TiO}_2$  were also synthesized. The optimization process was carried out by studying the performance efficiency of the antibacterial activity of Ag and Zr that were incorporated into  $\text{TiO}_2$  under fluorescent light. The structural and optical properties of the best optimized samples were characterized using PL, RAMAN, XPS, XRD, TEM and SEM. The sample was then selected to the study of the toxicity test.  $\text{TiO}_2$  nanotubes were synthesized using the anodization method to obtain get highly ordered  $\text{TiO}_2$  nanostructures. A set of experiments was conducted by adapting the optimum condition and controlled dimensional features for  $\text{TiO}_2$  nanotubes formation based on preliminary studies (Lai *et al.*, 2012). From these synthesized nanoparticles,  $\text{Ag-TiO}_2$  with the optimum formulation was selected to be loaded in nanotubular form. Antimicrobial activity test against *E. coli* was conducted. The structural properties were characterized

using XRD, EDX, and SEM analysis. The toxicity study of the silver loaded nanotubes was also investigated; it was found that they are safe to be used on human beings. The project overview is summarized in Figure 1.1.

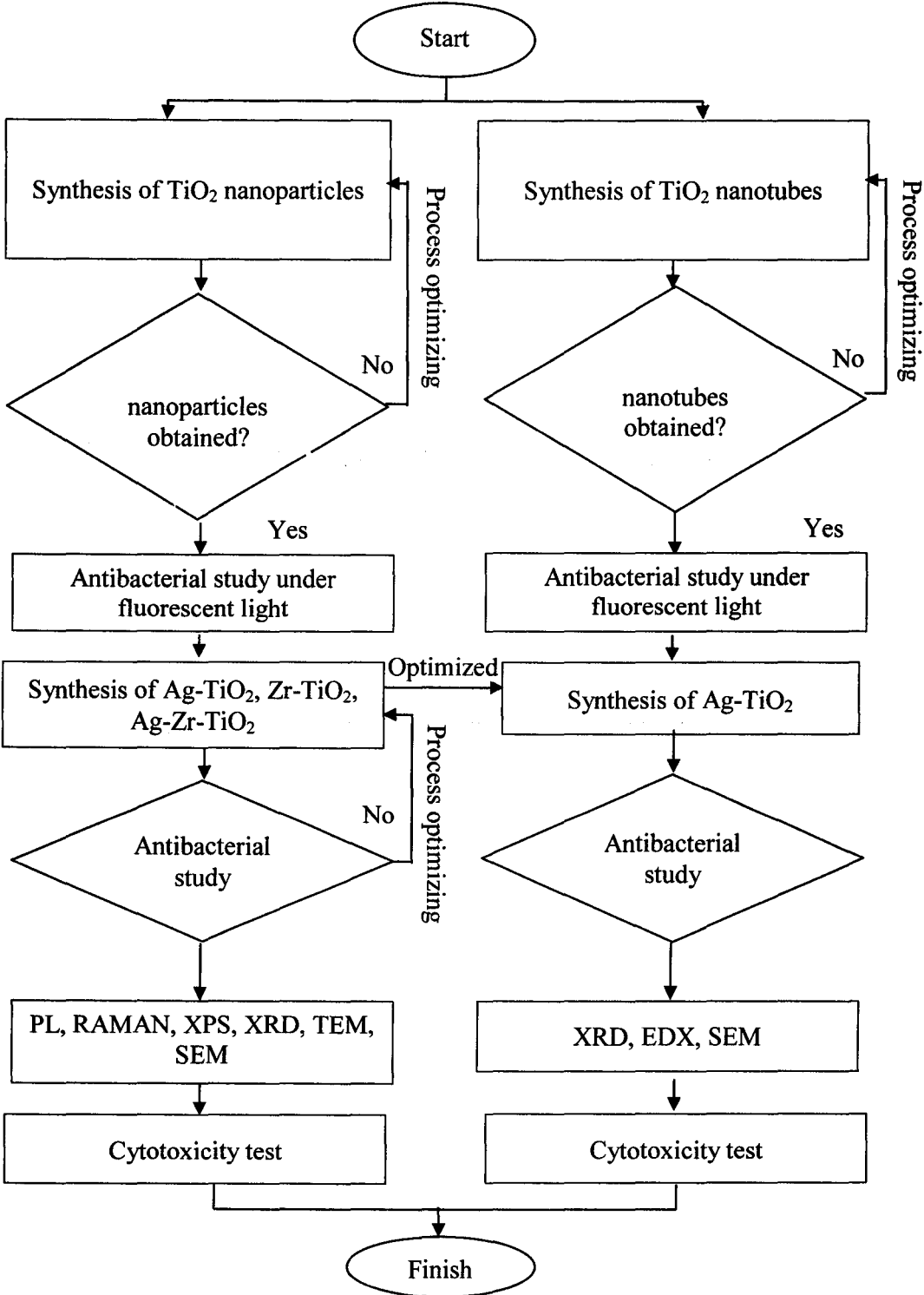


Figure 1.1: Flow chart of the project.

## **CHAPTER 2**

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

#### **2.1 Introduction**

This chapter covers two main topics; the first is on TiO<sub>2</sub> nanoparticles and the second is on TiO<sub>2</sub> nanotubes. TiO<sub>2</sub> nanoparticles are used for indoor air quality problems and TiO<sub>2</sub> nanotubes are used for implant applications. The properties of TiO<sub>2</sub> nanoparticles and nanotubes that are related to photocatalytic activity and bacterial effects are discussed in this chapter. The toxicity effects are also evaluated.

#### **2.2 Indoor air pollution**

Indoor air pollution is recognized as a public health problem as most people spend 80%-90% of their time indoors and in enclosed work areas (Society, 1990). According to research, each individual inhales about 20,000 liters of air every day. Every time we breathe, we are risking our lives by inhaling dangerous chemicals and biological contaminants that have found their way into the air. Microorganisms are responsible for irritant responses, infectious diseases, respiratory problems and hypersensitive reactions (Green and Scarpino, 2002). Furthermore, the contamination of indoor air by microbial pollutants may be responsible for the sick-building syndrome (SBS) and the building-related syndrome (BRI) (Bholah and Subratty, 2002). For example, airborne transmission of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* and other infectious agents in the indoor environments are hazardous (Xu *et al.*, 2003). As the world becomes industrialized and its population grows rapidly, the aforementioned problems have intensified. Since indoor air pollution is one of the top five environmental risks

(USEPA, 1995), the economical and effective prevention of disease spreading microorganisms indoors are needed.

### **2.3 Implant-related infections**

According to the Canadian Joint Replacement Registry (CJRR) 2008-2009 annual report, the number of hospitalizations for hip and knee replacement has been increasing steadily in the past 10 years (CJRR, 2009). In USA, it was estimated that the number of annual primary total knee replacements would increase from 450,400 in 2005 to 3.48 million by 2030, compared with the growth of the annual primary total hip replacements from 208,600 in 2005 to 572,100 by 2030 (American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons). After surgery, various complications occur such as dislocation, loosening and prosthetic-related infections. Despite considerable progress in the prevention and the treatment of implant-associated infections, the number of patients with such infections is rising due to the lifelong risk of bacterial seeding on the implant (Trampuz and Widmer, 2006). Widmer *et al.* (2001) has reported that the infection rates after revision surgery are usually higher (5%-40%) than after primary replacement. Due to the rise of the percentage of patients aged over 65 years in industrialized countries, the number of patients requiring implants will continue to grow, as well as the risk for orthopedic device-related infections (ODRIs) (Widmer, 2001). Considering the huge population of patients with orthopedic implants and the serious consequences, this problem should not be underestimated.

### **2.4 Photocatalyst**

In 1995, the photocatalyst was discovered in Japan. When a photocatalyst material is exposed to light, it absorbs photon energy and causes various chemical

reactions. In recent years, semiconductor photocatalysis has emerged as one of the most promising technologies because it represents an easy way to utilize the energy of either natural sunlight or artificial indoor illumination and is abundantly available everywhere in the world (Jiang *et al.*, 2012). The potential applications of photocatalysis are found mainly in the following fields: (i) photolysis of water to yield hydrogen fuel; (ii) photodecomposition or photooxidization of hazardous substances; (iii) artificial photosynthesis; (iv) photoinduced superhydrophilicity; and (v) photoelectrochemical conversion (Tong *et al.*, 2012). Various n-type semiconductor metal oxides such as TiO<sub>2</sub>, ZnO, CdS and SnO<sub>2</sub> have been tested for the photocatalytic oxidation of organic pollutants in water and air. Zinc oxide self-deactivates by forming Zn<sup>2+</sup> ions when it reacts with photogenerated holes in the water which can dissolve into the solution (Kuo and Shueh, 2003, Jung *et al.*, 2005). CdS also showed the same photocorrosion effect in solution by releasing toxic Cd<sup>2+</sup> ions in an aqueous media (Kuo and Shueh, 2003, Zhang *et al.*, 2006). Tin oxide has a wider band gap of 3.5-4.2 eV (350-300 nm), which utilizes a lesser fraction of UV light and thus, has a lower relative photoactivity (Koumoto *et al.*, 1999). Among the semiconductors reported, TiO<sub>2</sub> has generally exhibited the highest photocatalytic activity in a wider range of environmental applications. TiO<sub>2</sub> offers great promise for indoor air purification and has a positive impact on biomedical applications (Hyun Kim *et al.*, 2006, Popat *et al.*, 2007b). Therefore, TiO<sub>2</sub> was chosen to be used in this research.

#### **2.4.1 Properties of TiO<sub>2</sub>**

TiO<sub>2</sub> is a semiconductor with high photochemical stability, low cost, good photoactivity, and nontoxicity (Kment *et al.*, 2010, Markowska-Szczupak *et al.*, 2011). It is chemically inert and thermally stable, non-flammable and non-toxic. Bioactivity

has become a desired property of TiO<sub>2</sub> in the development of biomaterials (Brohede *et al.*, 2009, Piskounova *et al.*, 2009, Forsgren *et al.*, 2011). Titanium metals and alloys, with the anatase phase, have good bioactive properties (Kokubo, 1996, Forsgren *et al.*, 2007, Brohede *et al.*, 2009, Grigal *et al.*, 2012). Titanium is one of the few biocompatible metals which can osseointegrate. Moreover, TiO<sub>2</sub> is reputed to be toxic to both Gram-negative and Gram-positive bacteria (Adams *et al.*, 2006). Table 2.1 shows some of the physical and structural properties of TiO<sub>2</sub>. TiO<sub>2</sub> exists in three different phases: anatase, rutile and brookite.

Table 2.1: Physical and structural properties of anatase and rutile structure of TiO<sub>2</sub> (Sherub *et al.*, 2008).

Property	Anatase	Rutile
Molecular weight (g/mol)	79.88	79.88
Melting point (°C)	1825	1825
Boiling point (°C)	2500-3000	2500-3000
Specific gravity	3.9	4.0
Light absorption (nm)	$\lambda \leq 385$ nm	$\lambda \leq 415$ nm
Mohr's Hardness	5.5	6.5 to 7
Refractive index	2.55	2.75
Dielectric constant	31	114
Crystal structure	Tetragonal	Tetragonal
Lattice Constants(A°)	a= 3.784 c= 9.515	a= 4.5936 c= 2.9587
Density (g/cm <sup>3</sup> )	3.79	4.13
Ti-O bond length (A°)	1.937 (4) 1.965 (2)	1.949 (4) 1.980 (2)

Electronic properties such as band gap play an important role in the photocatalyst performance. The anatase phase of TiO<sub>2</sub> has a higher band gap (3.2 eV) compared to rutile (3.0 eV) and brookite. Anatase TiO<sub>2</sub> is more popular as a



photocatalyst although rutile has been found to be effective under certain specific circumstances (Sherub *et al.*, 2008). In this work,  $\text{TiO}_2$  is synthesized into  $\text{TiO}_2$  nanoparticles and nanotubes for two different applications. In the following section, the reasons for choosing  $\text{TiO}_2$  nanoparticles and nanotubes are discussed.

#### **2.4.2 $\text{TiO}_2$ nanoparticles**

Kato *et al.* (1964) studied the photocatalytic oxidation of tetralin using  $\text{TiO}_2$  suspension, and this was followed by McLintock (1965). Since then, the photocatalytic properties of  $\text{TiO}_2$  have been investigated extensively and have been developed for many successful applications such as the decontamination and the disinfection of water and air (Peral *et al.*, 1997, Crittenden *et al.*, 1997, Gaya and Abdullah, 2008, Swetha *et al.*, 2010b), conversion of water to hydrogen and oxygen (Akira and Kenichi, 1972, Maeda, 2011), and antimicrobial biomedical materials (Monteiro *et al.*, 2009, Rupp *et al.*, 2010, Markowska-Szczupak *et al.*, 2011). The nanoparticles have good electrical, optical and magnetic properties that are different from their bulk counterparts. Various investigations have established that  $\text{TiO}_2$  in the form of nanoparticles is more effective as a photocatalyst. The control of the size, shape, and structure of the colloidal precursor is an important factor in determining the properties of the final material. Recently, several techniques have been reported for synthesizing  $\text{TiO}_2$  nanoparticles through controlled nucleation and growth processes in dilute Ti (IV) solutions. Among these techniques are the sol-gel, hydrothermal and peptization methods with the advantage of low reaction temperature.

$\text{TiO}_2$  photocatalysts have been investigated extensively for killing or the growth inhibition of bacteria (Fu *et al.*, 2005). Reactive oxygen species (ROS) generated can

oxidize organic compounds on the  $\text{TiO}_2$  surface, resulting in the death of microorganisms in the presence of UV light or loading with other metals. Many investigations have reported that the addition of noble metals such as gold and silver may enhance the overall photoefficiency of  $\text{TiO}_2$ . However, the selection of the best noble metal and optimizing the content of dopants incorporated into  $\text{TiO}_2$  is very important for practical applications. It is believed that loading the optimum amount of cationic dopants could extend the lifetimes of charge carriers and suppress the recombination losses effectively. A variety of noble metal doped  $\text{TiO}_2$  have been synthesized to improve the efficiency of the photocatalytic activity of  $\text{TiO}_2$  in killing bacteria and this will be discussed in section 2.4.4.

In order to improve the immigration of photo-induced charge carriers, considerable effort has been exerted to improve the antibacterial and cell viability performance under fluorescent light. Ag- $\text{TiO}_2$  nanoparticles have gained much attention and have become a favourite study among researchers. The best properties of Ag- $\text{TiO}_2$  nanoparticles gained from this research primarily depend on the nature of the preparation method and the role optimum Ag content incorporated into  $\text{TiO}_2$ . Therefore, in subsequent sections, the basic principle, material selection and the work done by various researchers with regards to  $\text{TiO}_2$ , Ag- $\text{TiO}_2$  and other dopants applied in air purification applications will be reviewed. The relationship between Ag on  $\text{TiO}_2$  photocatalysis in deactivating bacteria remains unclear, hence the mechanism of the reactions will also be discussed. The toxicity studies of  $\text{TiO}_2$  nanoparticles are still a matter of debate especially when the size of the nanoparticles is below 50 nm. Concerning the toxic effects of  $\text{TiO}_2$  nanoparticles to human beings, the size of the nanoparticles synthesized by other researchers will also be reviewed.

### 2.4.3 TiO<sub>2</sub> nanotubes

Particulate TiO<sub>2</sub> film has been used since the discovery of PEC (photo electrochemical water splitting) (Fujishima and Honda, 1972). TiO<sub>2</sub> has been widely used in medical applications (Popat *et al.*, 2007a, Aninwene *et al.*, 2008, Vasilev *et al.*, 2010). TiO<sub>2</sub> with a well-aligned nanotubular structure provides unique electronic properties such as high e<sup>-</sup> mobility, high specific area, excellent ability to absorb *hν* (photon energy) and high mechanical strength (Roy *et al.*, 2011). It is also light, corrosion resistant, strong and suitable for medical implant applications (Oh and Jin, 2006).

The fluoride-based electrolyte has received great interest because of its controllable, reproducible results as well as the simple process (Kim *et al.*, 2008a). Zwilling *et al.* (1999) first reported on the fabrication of a self-ordered TiO<sub>2</sub> nanotubular structure by anodizing Ti in electrolytes containing fluoride ions. By using nonaqueous electrolytes (ethylene glycol), ultrahigh aspect ratio (length/diameter) nanotubes were achieved. It is well known that the cellular response is strongly affected by the surface morphology. It has also been reported that the natural oxide layer formed on the surface plays a critical role in biocompatibility (Tsuchiya *et al.*, 2006). Studies by Oh *et al.* (2006) have showed that the presence of the TiO<sub>2</sub> nanotube layer significantly accelerates osteoblasts growth and adhesion. TiO<sub>2</sub> also has the capability to inactivate microbial toxins (e.g. lipopolysaccharide endotoxin, brevetoxins, microcystins) and kill a wide range of organisms including bacteria, fungi, algae, viruses and cancer cells in the presence of UV light (Foster *et al.*, 2011).

It is believed that the antimicrobial activities of the TiO<sub>2</sub> nanotubes are highly dependent on the dopant's type. Ag was incorporated into TiO<sub>2</sub> nanotubes and the antimicrobial activities surfaces were investigated. The optimum amount of Ag incorporated into TiO<sub>2</sub> nanotubes is believed to have abundant electron traps so as to be favorable for the separation of the photoinduced electron-hole pairs, which could greatly enhance the activity of the photocatalysts and subsequently kill the microorganisms.

The greatest concerning Ag-TiO<sub>2</sub> as an implant is the toxic effects in medical applications. Some studies have shown that the TiO<sub>2</sub> nanotubes are not toxic both *in vitro* (Feschet-Chassot *et al.*, 2011, Wadhwa *et al.*, 2011) and *in vivo* studies (Popat *et al.*, 2007b). However, some reports showed contradicting results where TiO<sub>2</sub> nanotubes have toxic effects (Peters *et al.*, 2004, Zhang and Sun, 2004). Many physical and chemical factors influence the antibacterial and toxicity effects of TiO<sub>2</sub> nanotubes and it will be discussed in detail. In order to improve the properties of Ti as an implant, the surface modification of Ti will be reviewed.

#### **2.4.4 Modification of TiO<sub>2</sub> to harvest visible light**

The photocatalytic capability of TiO<sub>2</sub> is limited to ultraviolet (UV) light (wavelength <400 nm) illumination. The application of TiO<sub>2</sub> is restricted to UV light photoactivation for the generation of highly reactive oxygen species (i.e., hydroxyl radicals). This is an economical and technological limitation for the use of renewable energy sources such as solar light since UV light only accounts for a small portion (3% to 4%) of the whole solar spectrum while visible light accounts for 45% of the solar spectrum (Pelaez *et al.*, 2012a, Khan *et al.*, 2008). This means that only about 3% to 4% of the solar spectrum can be utilized by pure TiO<sub>2</sub>. If UV light is the source of radiation,

the photocatalytic process must be conducted in a closed and protected space, which makes it impossible to be processed in open spaces. In response to these deficiencies, many researchers have proposed several attempts to develop and enhance its activity in the visible light region. The effects of the addition of noble metals and ion doping can be beneficial in decreasing the  $e^-$  and  $h^+$  pair recombination rate thereby increasing the quantum yield of the photocatalytic process. Doping the semiconductor with a metal and metal ion also enables visible light absorption by providing defect states in the band gap (Subramanian *et al.*, 2003). The mechanism of heterogeneous photocatalysis in the presence of  $TiO_2$  will also be discussed.

#### **2.4.4.1 Noble metal loading**

The photocatalytic mechanism is initiated by the absorption of the photon  $h\nu_1$  with energy equal to or greater than the band gap of  $TiO_2$  ( $\sim 3.2$  eV), producing an electron-hole pair on the surface of  $TiO_2$  nanoparticles as schematized in Figure 2.1. The visible light photoactivity of metal-doped  $TiO_2$  can be explained by a new energy level produced in the band gap of  $TiO_2$  by the dispersion of metal nanoparticles in the  $TiO_2$  matrix. As shown in Figure 2.1, the electron can be excited from the defect state to the conduction band by photons with energy equals to  $h\nu_2$ . These noble metals act separately or simultaneously depending on the photoreaction conditions and they may: (i) enhance the electron-hole separation by acting as electron traps, (ii) extend the light absorption into the visible range and enhance surface electron excitation by plasmon resonances excited by visible light, and (iii) modify the surface properties of photocatalyst (Sherub *et al.*, 2008). Noble metals that are widely used are Ag, Pt, Au, Pd and Cu. These noble metals have a lower Fermi level than  $TiO_2$  (Sherub *et al.*, 2008).

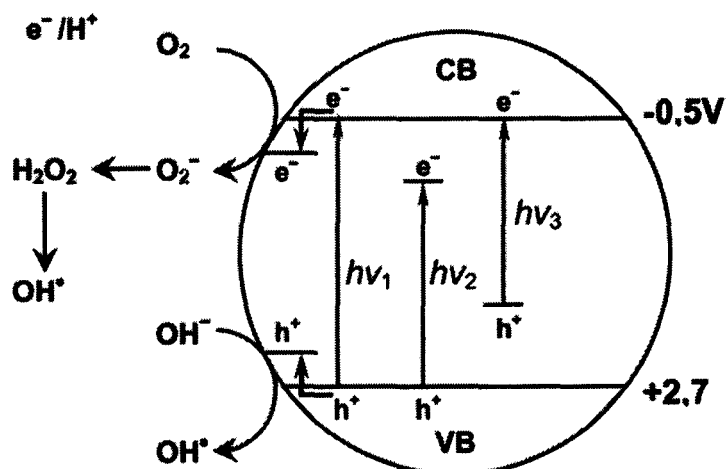


Figure 2.1: Mechanism of TiO<sub>2</sub> photocatalysis:  $h\nu_1$ : pure TiO<sub>2</sub>;  $h\nu_2$ : metal-doped TiO<sub>2</sub> and  $h\nu_3$ : nonmetal-doped TiO<sub>2</sub>.

The effect of platinum (Pt) doping on TiO<sub>2</sub> is mainly studied for hydrogen generation from water and the degradation of organic pollutants (Kim *et al.*, 2005). Kim *et al.* (2005) successfully demonstrated that the band gap of Pt-TiO<sub>2</sub> is lower than that of undoped TiO<sub>2</sub> by about 0.2 eV. The visible light activity of Pt ion-TiO<sub>2</sub> is strongly affected by the calcination temperature and the concentration of Pt ion dopant which are optimal at 673 K and 0.5 atom %, respectively. Anpo *et al.* (2003) found that Pt loading reduced the amount of Ti<sup>3+</sup> (evidence of the occurrence of electron transfer from TiO<sub>2</sub> to Pt). Pt traps photogenerated electrons and subsequently increases the photo-induced electron transfer rate at the interface (Anpo and Takeuchi, 2003).

The photocatalytic antimicrobial activity over Cu doped under visible light was reported by Karunakaran *et al.* (2010). 2 % of Cu-doped TiO<sub>2</sub> shifted the optical absorption edge to the visible region but increased the charge-transfer resistance and decreased the capacitance. It was very efficient to disinfect the *E. coli* (Karunakaran *et al.*, 2010). The optimum metal loading was found for 0.5 M % of copper ion to enhance

photoactivity (Colón *et al.*, 2006). The stabilization of the Cu<sub>2</sub>O species in doped TiO<sub>2</sub> was due to the preparation of Cu-TiO<sub>2</sub> in the presence of sulphuric acid.

Among the noble metals, Ag is the most preferable noble metal to be loaded into TiO<sub>2</sub> compared to other noble metals because Ag has unique properties as an antimicrobial agent and is applied in a wide range of applications especially in disinfecting medical devices. Ag is well known as non-toxic in spite of claims of killing many different disease organisms. Hence, it is very suitable for indoor air quality applications due to its non-toxic properties. According to the literature, silver is skin friendly and does not cause skin irritations (Klaus-Joerger *et al.*, 2001). Moreover, Ag is more economical than Au and Pt.

Ashkarran *et al.* (2011) carried out synthesis using the sol gel method. It was found that by increasing the silver concentration in the TiO<sub>2</sub> matrix, the antibacterial activity was enhanced remarkably. 0.15 g Ag/TiO<sub>2</sub> nanoparticles exhibit the highest antibacterial activity. The significant enhancement in the antibacterial properties of Ag/TiO<sub>2</sub> nanoparticles under visible light irradiation can be ascribed to the effect of doped noble metal Ag by acting as electron traps in the TiO<sub>2</sub> band gap (Ashkarran *et al.*, 2011). Gunawan *et al.* (2009) reported that the antimicrobial activity increased with higher Ag-TiO<sub>2</sub> loadings from 1 to 500 mg L<sup>-1</sup>. The reversible photoswitching of nano silver on TiO<sub>2</sub> resulted in excitation and a reverse electron flow from silver to the TiO<sub>2</sub> support, oxidising silver ( $\text{Ag}^0 \rightarrow \text{Ag}^+$ ) in the process (Gunawan *et al.*, 2009). However, the toxicity study was not done in this work.

The deactivation of both Gram-positive (*S. aureus*) and Gram-negative (*P. aeruginosa*, *E. coli*) bacteria with Ag-doped TiO<sub>2</sub> nanoparticles (3% and 7%) was reported by Gupta *et al.* (2013). The viability of all three microorganisms was reduced to zero at 60 mg/30 mL culture in the case of both (3% and 7% doping) concentrations of Ag-doped TiO<sub>2</sub> nanoparticles. Annealed TiO<sub>2</sub> showed zero viability at 80 mg/30 mL whereas doped Ag-TiO<sub>2</sub> 7% showed zero viability at 40 mg/30 mL culture in the case of *P. aeruginosa* only (Gupta *et al.*, 2013). In this work, antibacterial activity was focused but the toxicity study was not reported.

Ag-TiO<sub>2</sub> nanoparticles are prepared with the sol-gel method using a reduction agent as reported by Lee *et al.* (2005). When the AgNO<sub>3</sub> content is 2 mmol/mol of TiO<sub>2</sub>, the major phase (111) of silver could be clearly seen. 70% of p-nitrophenol is degraded after 60 minutes of UV irradiation for TiO<sub>2</sub>. In the case of Ag-TiO<sub>2</sub>, 90% of p-nitrophenol is degraded. The improvement in the photocatalytic activity is related to the transportation of electrons from the TiO<sub>2</sub> conduction band to the Ag particles (Lee *et al.*, 2005). In this work, antimicrobial activity is not reported.

Almost all studies only reported on the antimicrobial study of Ag-TiO<sub>2</sub>, but very few on the toxicity effects. In completing this work, the detailed work of Ag-TiO<sub>2</sub> nanoparticles and nanotubes were studied in turning the photocatalytic of TiO<sub>2</sub> into the visible light region. Physical properties, antibacterial study, the mechanism of cell wall decomposition and toxicity effects were studied for TiO<sub>2</sub> nanoparticles and nanotubes.



#### 2.4.4.2 Metal ion loading

Transitional metals are either deposited or doped on the TiO<sub>2</sub> surfaces as metallic nanoparticles are doped as ionic dopants. The doping elements are usually Cr, Fe, V, Nb, Sb, Sn, P, Si, Al and Zr. Figure 2.2 shows the effect of different metals in TiO<sub>2</sub> to absorb visible light and to enhance photocatalytic activity. Some doping has the possibility to inactivate microorganisms under visible light irradiation. More details of the cation doping TiO<sub>2</sub> are shown in Table 2.2. The replacement of cationic ions within the crystal lattice may create impurity energy levels that facilitate better absorption in the visible light region as depicted in Figure 2.2.

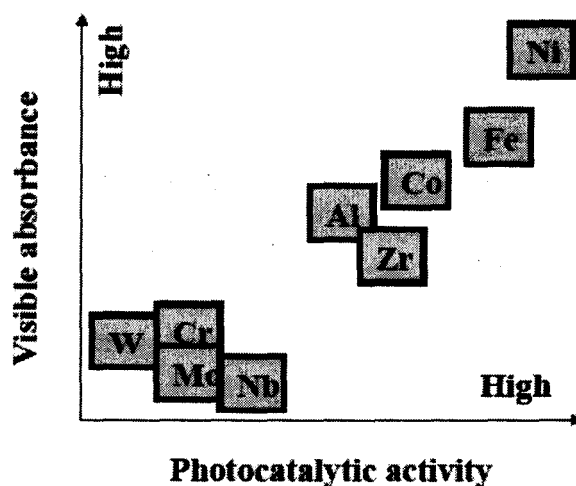


Figure 2.2: Effect of cationic doping compounds in terms of visible light absorbance and photocatalytic activity (Hwang *et al.*, 2006, Yanjun *et al.*, 2006).

Luu *et al.* (2010) synthesized Fe-doped into TiO<sub>2</sub> by the sol gel method. Fe-doped TiO<sub>2</sub> enabled the photon absorbing zone of TiO<sub>2</sub> to extend from UV towards the visible waves as well as to reduce its band gap energy from 3.2 to 2.67 eV. The photocatalytic activities of the TiO<sub>2</sub> samples modified by Fe<sup>3+</sup> have been found to be higher than those of pure TiO<sub>2</sub> by about 2.5 times (Luu *et al.*, 2010). Fe ions trap not only electrons but also holes which lead to the increase of photoactivity (Litter, 1999,

Jiefang *et al.*, 2003). The maximum photoactivity appears with 0.5 wt % of  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$  due to the decrease in the density of the surface active centers (Chatterjee and Dasgupta, 2005). According to George *et al.* (2011), the photo-oxidation capability of Fe-doped  $\text{TiO}_2$  is found to increase during near-visible light exposure. The cytotoxic and ROS production shows the increasing of oxidant injury and the cell death of a macrophage cell line with a decrease in the band gap energy (George *et al.*, 2011).

Tsai *et al.* (2012) reported that the absorption spectra of the nanoparticles shift towards the visible light regions depending on the  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  addition.  $\text{Ti}^{4+}$  and  $\text{Ti}^{3+}$  coexist in the synthesized Al-doped  $\text{TiO}_2$ . The  $\text{Ti}^{3+}$  concentration however increases with the increasing of  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  addition due to Al/Ti substitution that causes the occurrence of oxygen vacancy (Tsai *et al.*, 2012). Aluminium doping is used on  $\text{TiO}_2$  for a potential application in thermal shock due to its stable thermal expansion coefficient and physical property (Li *et al.*, 2006). The presence of metal dopants effectively increases the photocatalytic activity of  $\text{TiO}_2$  thin films in the following order:  $\text{Ag/TiO}_2 > \text{Zr/TiO}_2 > \text{Fe/TiO}_2 > \text{TiO}_2$  (Kment *et al.*, 2010).

Another alternative to metal ions is Zr ions, which is rarely reviewed. Liu *et al.* (2009) synthesized Zr-doped  $\text{TiO}_2$  nanotube arrays by the electrochemical method.  $\text{Zr/TiO}_2$  nanotube arrays doped at 7 V and calcined at 600 °C achieved the best photocatalytic efficiency and the most optimal doping ratio was 0.047 (Zr/Ti). The increase in photocatalytic activity was due to the increased number of oxygen vacancies. Zr incorporated into the  $\text{TiO}_2$  lattice and induced a relatively larger lattice strain. (Liu *et al.*, 2009). However, the photocatalytic test was only performed under UV light and no antimicrobial activity was done in this work.

According to Swetha *et al.* (2010), Zr-doped TiO<sub>2</sub> at the molecular scale exhibited better photocatalytic activity with a lower bandgap energy. The work reported that the optical absorption edge shifted slightly from 400 nm to about 450 nm. Zr-doped TiO<sub>2</sub> can inactivate *P. aeruginosa* by 100% within 150 minutes of exposure. (Swetha *et al.*, 2010a). However, the photocatalytic and antibacterial activity were done only under sunlight. The toxicity study was also not reported.

Stengl *et al.* (2008) found that doping Zr-TiO<sub>2</sub> prepared by the homogeneous hydrolysis of titanium and zirconium oxo-sulphates mixture in aqueous solutions have a positive influence on the degradation activity of warfare agents and decreases the photocatalytic degradation of Orange 2 dye. The presence of Zr<sup>4+</sup> dopant increases the surface area, crystallites size and accelerates the surface hydroxylation. Total degradation soman (3,3-dimethyl-2-butyl methylphosphonofluoridate or GD) and matter VX (O-ethyl S-2-(diisopropylamino)ethyl methylphosphonothionate) on Zr-doped titania run up through 1 minute is for a sample with ~13.2 weight % Zr (Štengl *et al.*, 2008). In this work, antibacterial and toxicity activities were not done.

Moafi *et al.* (2011) found that Ag-Zr co-doped TiO<sub>2</sub> nanoparticles has a more significant efficiency in photocatalytic activity compared to Ag-TiO<sub>2</sub> and Zr-TiO<sub>2</sub>. However, this paper only reported on the photocatalytic test but did not test on the antibacterial and toxicity studies. Moreover, the research did not study the different compositions of Zr. In this study, different compositions of Ag-Zr were studied and the results were compared with TiO<sub>2</sub>, Ag-TiO<sub>2</sub> and Zr-TiO<sub>2</sub> in terms of physical properties, antibacterial and toxicity study to complete the set.

## 2.5 Photocatalytic inactivation of microorganism

Photocatalysis is the acceleration of a photoreaction in the presence of a catalyst. In 1972, Fujishima and Honda discovered that water molecules were splitted using  $\text{TiO}_2$  electrodes under ultraviolet (UV) irradiation (Fujishima and Honda, 1972). The underlying mechanism of  $\text{TiO}_2$  photocatalysis is the light-induced generation of electron-hole pairs in a crystalline form of  $\text{TiO}_2$ . The principles of semiconductor-based photocatalysis can be schematically demonstrated in Figure 2.3 (Linsebigler *et al.*, 1995, Haghighi *et al.*, 2011, Cho *et al.*, 2004). Upon irradiation with photons less than 380 nm, electrons in the valence band were excited to the conduction band and formed electrons ( $e_{cb}^-$ ) and holes ( $h_{vb}^+$ ) on the surface of nanoparticles as shown in equation (2.1), and electron-hole pairs were created on the surface of the photocatalyst (Kartsonakis *et al.*, 2008). This stage is referred as the semiconductor's 'photo-excitation' state (Maness *et al.*, 1999). Oxygen acted as an electron acceptor by forming a superoxide radical anion ( $\text{O}_2^{\bullet-}$ ), strong oxidative radicals that can decompose organic compounds (Miao *et al.*, 2004, Kangwansupamonkon *et al.*, 2009) as shown in equation (2.2). Holes could react with water adhering to the surfaces of semiconductor particles to form hydroxyl radical ( $\text{OH}^\bullet$ ) as shown in equation (2.3) (Maness *et al.*, 1999). In the literature,  $\text{OH}^\bullet$ ,  $\text{HO}_2^\bullet$ ,  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  are considered to be the key reactive oxygen species (ROS) generated in the photocatalytic reaction (Liou and Chang, 2012). These electrons and holes attacked the organic compounds producing less harmful and nontoxic products as shown in equation (2.4). In this work, the mechanisms of Ag- $\text{TiO}_2$  will be discussed in detail in Chapter 4 based on the SEM and TEM observations.

